

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01090 030426Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-11 /125 W

-----098755 031135Z /14

R 030303Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5078
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 01090

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: ETRD, NZ, EEC, UK
SUBJECT: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TALBOYS TO DISCUSS EEC
SHEEPMEAT POLICY IN BRUSSELS AND LONDON

1. NEW ZEALAND'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE --
BRIAN TALBOYS -- WILL BE VISITING BRUSSELS AND LONDON
NEXT WEEK IN A LAST DITCH EFFORT TO INFLUENCE PROPOSALS
BEING FRAMED BY THE EC COMMISSION FOR INCLUSION OF
SHEEPMEAT WITHIN THE CAP. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED
BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IAN STEWART,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, TED
WOODFIELD, AND HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY, BRIAN BREMNER.

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE, THE COMMISSION
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IS GIVING THOUGHT TO A PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE
A VARIABLE LEVY SYSTEM ON THIRD-COUNTRY IMPORTS TO
PROTECT INTRA-EEC PRODUCERS. THE VARIABLE LEVY WOULD
REPLACE THE 20 PERCENT IMPORT LEVY NOW PAYABLE ON NEW
ZEALAND LAMB IMPORTS INTO THE EEC, AND THE LOCAL FEAR
IS A VARIABLE LEVY MIGHT RISE WELL ABOVE THE PRESENT
20 PERCENT LEVEL. LEVIES BEYOND 20 PERCENT, HOWEVER,

WOULD INVOLVE RENEGOTIATION WITHIN THE GATT.

3. NONETHELESS, NEW ZEALAND IS SUFFICIENTLY WORRIED THAT IT IS DISPATCHING MINISTER TALBOYS TO MEET WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS AND WITH U.K. AGRICULTURE MINISTER JOHN SILKIN NEXT WEEK. THE STAKES ARE HIGH; NEW ZEALAND EXPORTS 250 MILLION DOLLARS OF LAMB TO THE U.K. ANNUALLY, AND THE IRISH AND FRENCH -- BOTH MAJOR SHEEPMET PRODUCERS -- HAVE BEEN PUSHING FOR INCLUSION OF SHEEPMET WITHIN THE CAP. THE HOPE HERE IS THAT, IF A SHEEPMETS POLICY MUST BE ARRIVED AT AT ALL, IT BE AS LITTLE HARMFUL TO NEW ZEALAND'S ESTABLISHED EXPORTS AS POSSIBLE. SELDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WELLIN01090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780097-0730
Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803107/aaaadmsf.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8c517bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3117813
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TALBOYS TO DISCUSS EEC SHEEPMEAT POLICY IN BRUSSELS AND LONDON
TAGS: ETRD, NZ, UK, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c517bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014